

# The New Oxford American Dictionary

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h) very: *I'm awfully sorry to bother you so nicely man.*  
unpleasantly: *we played awfully.*  
wil| ►adv. for a short time: *stand here*

English *ān'hwīlē* '(for) a while.'

adverb **awhile** (*we paused awhile*) should one word. The noun phrase, meaning 'a while', esp. when preceded by a preposition, often as two words (*Margaret rested for a while there in a while*). See also **usage** at

**whirl** | ►adj. [predic.] in a whirl; whirling: *her hair with images.*

**awkward** | ►adj. 1 causing difficulty; hard to do: *one of the most awkward jobs is painting awkward questions | the wheelbarrow can maneuver.*

liberally unreasonable or uncooperative: *damned awkward!* | *please excuse my e's at an awkward age.*

clinging embarrassment or inconvenience: *in a very awkward situation.*

or graceful; ungainly: *Luther's awkward ended his progress | she was long-legged and d.*

odd or abnormal: *make sure the baby isn't in an awkward position.*

**ES** **awkwardly** | ►adv.; **awkwardness** n.

Middle English (in the sense 'the wrong upside down'): from dialect *awk* 'backwards, clumsy' (from Old English *aw* 'turned the wrong way')

►n. the period of adolescence marked by self-centered and moody behavior.

small pointed tool used

holes, esp. in leather.

English *awl*, of German

related to German

**awl** a stiff bristle, esp.

rowing from the ear or

eye, rye, and many grass-

**es awned** adj.

English, from Old Norse *egn*; related to Danish *avn*.

**awning** | ►n. a sheet of canvas or other material in a frame and used to keep the sun or front, window, doorway, or deck.

17th cent. (originally in nautical use): from Latin *au-* + *gnus*.

—past of **AWAKE**.

—yōkān past participle of **AWAKE**.

►adj. [predic.] Military absent from where but without intent to desert: *the men*

**OL** | *humorous now the parrot has gone*

**Os**: acronym from *absent without (official)*

adv. & adj. away from the appropriate, expected course; amiss: [as adv.] *many*

*ces go awry* | [as predic.] *I got the impression was awry.*

normal or correct position; askew: [as

*was awless, his silver hair awry.*

Middle English: from A-2 'on' + **WRY**.

►adj. [attrib.] informal (of a personal quality or

deprecating and shy: *his aw-shucks nice-*

*is conniving nature.*

20th cent.: from **AW** + **shucks** (see

**axe**) | ►n. 1 a tool typically used for chopping: a steel blade attached at a right an-

*h* handle.

►n. 2 a tool typically used for chop-

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